



Introduction — Lightning

Insurance agents advise customers that the highest number of claims due to lightning come from damage to microwave ovens, pool pump/circulation motors, televisions, and more recently, home computer systems.

Thunderstorms can form during the dry winter season, but summer often is "thunderstorm season." On hot afternoons, local cells of humid air rise from the heated surface of the earth to form thunderclouds, which then cool enough to dump torrential rainstorms and to generate lightning.

Outdoor recreation and other activities are best timed to avoid the afternoon storms, which may occur anywhere from noon to six p.m. In some areas of the state, these storms form so regularly at the same time each day one can nearly set one's watch by them.

Caution should be exercised. Just because a storm isn't close does not mean an individual is safe from lightning strikes. Lightning can strike from seemingly clear air, well ahead of the storm front of heavy rain and gusting winds.

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